

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 2 are amended herein. New claim 13 is added, and is similar to claim 1 but includes means-plus-function language. Support for the claim amendments and new claim is found, for example, in FIG. 6 and the disclosure on page 10, lines 5-33, of the specification.

Claims 3, 5-8 and 10-12 are canceled.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-2, 4, 9 and 13 are currently pending.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS OVER SHARMA (USP 6,081,355) IN VIEW OF RUBINSTEIN (USP 3,430,048), OR OVER SHARMA AND RUBINSTEIN IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER REFERENCES

Claim 1 is amended to recite time-division multiplexing the optical pulses output by said optical pulse source by causing the outputted optical pulses to be branched by a half mirror into first and second lights, so that the branched first light is reflected by a variable optical delay unit and then the reflected first light passes through the half mirror to an output port, and so that the branched second light passes through a variable optical attenuator is then reflected by a mirror and then the reflected second light again passes through the variable optical attenuator and thereafter passes through the half mirror to the output port, to thereby multiplex together the first light passing through the half mirror and the second light passing through the half mirror into a multiplexed light which is output through the output port and which includes optical pulses with a repetition frequency of $2 \cdot (f_0)$.

Moreover, claim 1 is amended to recite that a time difference of a path traveled by the first light and a path travelled by the second light is $1/(2 \cdot (f_0))$.

In addition, claim 1 is amended to recite that the variable optical attenuator adjusts intensity of the second light so that intensities of optical pulses in the branched first and second lights are equal in the multiplexed light output through the output port.

Somewhat similar amendments are made to claim 2.

Support for the amendments is found, for example, in FIG. 6 and page 10, lines 5-33, of the specification.

None of the references, taken individually or in combination, discloses or suggests the features recited in the amended claims.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections are overcome.

III. CONCLUSION

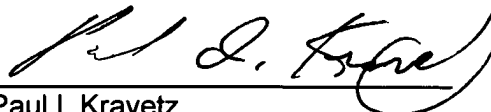
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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